

1 CLAIMS

2 I claim:

3 1. A system for automating a business's management of business information

4 comprising:

5 a server computer hosting a business information exchange service accessible via client

6 computers to a plurality of business information users and a plurality of customized form

7 providers, said business information exchange service further comprising

8 a first user interface comprising controls whereby a business information user

9 selects, receives, and transmits business information; and

10 a second user interface comprising controls whereby a customized form provider

11 transmits and edits business information; and

12 a database of business information;

13 whereby said business information exchange service is available via a computer network

14 to assist business information users in obtaining customized and noncustomized business

15 documents.

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17 2. The system of claim 1, said database of business information further comprising

18 business information transmitted by said second user.

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20 3. The system of claim 1, said first user interface further comprising:

21 a first control for providing a web page to said first user listing business information

22 available for transmission to said first user without cost;

1 a second control for providing a web page to said first user listing customized business
2 information available for transmission to said first user for a fee; and

3 a third control for providing a web page to said first user enabling said first user to
4 transfer business information to said server for producing a business document therefrom.

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6 4. A method for providing customized and noncustomized business information to
7 remote users, comprising the steps of:

8 a) providing a web site having a first user interface comprising controls whereby a
9 business information user selects, receives, and transmits business information, and a second
10 user interface comprising controls whereby a customized form provider transmits and edits
11 business information;

12 b) receiving at said web site a first business information user input indicative of a desired
13 category of available document transfer services; and

14 c) transmitting to said business information user a desired web page enabling the transfer
15 of business information between said web site and said business information user.
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17 5. The method of claim 4, wherein said web page transmitted to said business
18 information user lists noncustomized business information available for transmission to said first
19 user without cost.

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21 6. The method of claim 5, further comprising the step of:

22 d) receiving at said web site a first business information user input indicative of a desired
23 noncustomized business information document to download from said web site without cost.

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2 7. The method of claim 6, further comprising the steps of:

3 e) transmitting to said business information user a web page listing document download
4 conditions;

5 f) receiving at said web site business information user input indicative of said business
6 information user's agreement to said conditions; and

7 g) transmitting to said business information user said desired noncustomized business
8 information document in read only form.
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10 8. The method of claim 4, wherein said web page transmitted to said business
11 information user lists customized business information available for transmission to said first
12 user for a fee.
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14 9. The method of claim 8, further comprising the step of:

15 d) receiving at said web site a first business information user input indicative of a desired
16 customized business information document to download from said web site for a fee.
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18 10. The method of claim 9, further comprising the steps of:

19 e) transmitting to said business information user a web page providing an outline
20 description of said desired customized business information document;

21 f) receiving at said web site business information user input indicative of said business
22 information user's intention to purchase said document;

1 g) transmitting to said business information user a web page listing document download
2 conditions;

3 h) receiving at said web site business information user input indicative of said business
4 information user's agreement to said conditions; and

5 i) transmitting to said business information user said desired customized business
6 information document in read only form.

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8 11. The method of claim 4, wherein said web page transmitted to said business
9 information user lists customized business information available for generation at said web site.

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11 12. The method of claim 11, further comprising the step of:

12 d) receiving at said web site a first business information user input indicative of a desired
13 class of customized business information document to be generated at said web site.

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15 13. The method of claim 12, further comprising the steps of:

16 e) transmitting to said business information user a web page requesting input of data
17 corresponding to the selected class of customized business information document to be
18 generated;

19 f) receiving at said web site business information user input data corresponding to said
20 selected class; and

21 g) storing said data with an identification of said business information user for later
22 retrieval.

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1 14. A method for providing customized and noncustomized business information to
2 remote users, comprising the steps of:

3 a) providing a web site having a first user interface comprising controls whereby a
4 business information user selects, receives, and transmits business information, and a second
5 user interface comprising controls whereby a customized form provider transmits and edits
6 business information;

7 b) receiving at said web site a first customized form provider input indicative of a login
8 identification specific to said customized form provider; and

9 c) transmitting to said customized form provider a web page listing a plurality of
10 customized business information handling functions accessible by said customized form
11 provider.
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13 15. The method of claim 14, wherein said customized business information handling
14 functions comprise uploading new customized business information and editing previously
15 stored customized business information.
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17 16. The method of claim 15, further comprising the steps of:

18 d) receiving at said web site customized business information from said customized form
19 provider; and

20 e) storing said customized business information as a customized read only document
21 with an identification of said customized form provider.
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23 17. The method of claim 15, further comprising the steps of:

- 1 d) transmitting to said customized form provider a previously stored customized business
- 2 information document associated with said customized form provider;
- 3 e) receiving from said customized form provider an edited version of said previously
- 4 stored customized business information document; and
- 5 f) storing said edited version of said customized business information as a customized
- 6 read only document with an identification of said customized form provider.